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SHERBORNE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINISTRY OF HEALTH

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1962

Medical Officer of Health -

NOEL F. PEARSON, M.R.C.S.,L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector -

F.E. RAEBURN, M.A.P.H.I.

Council Offices,
STURMINSTER NEWTON,
Dorset.

1st July, 1963.

To The Chairman and Members,
Sherborne Urban District Council

Madam and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1962.

The report is prepared and will be circulated in accordance with the requirements of the Public Health Officers Regulations, 1959.

Allowing for the smallness of numbers under consideration, in general, the vital statistics compare favourably with those for the Country as a whole. It is satisfactory to note that there was no infantile or stillbirth during the year.

There was no increased incidence in any of the notifiable communicable diseases.

I have taken the opportunity to circularise with this report a table of statistics extracted from the Census Reports of 1951 and 1961 which you may find interesting.

I am indebted to Mr. Raeburn your Public Health Inspector for his co-operation and help during the year, and for assistance in preparing this report. I am also indebted to my clerk, Miss J. Shirley for her efficient services.

I would also like to thank you, Madam and Gentlemen, for your courtesy and consideration throughout the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your Obedient Servant,

Medical Officer of Health.

SHERBORNE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR

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A. Area - 1,650 acres
Rateable value: 1st April 1963 - £240,162
Production of a penny rate: 1962/63 - £378
1963/64 - £923 (est)

Vital Statistics

Population (Registrar General's Estimate) - 7,140

LIVE BIRTHS

	Male	Female		Comparative Rates (a) Sherborne U D.	(b) England & Wales
Total	46	27	Rate per 1,000 resident pop: = 10.2	12.9	18.0

STILLBIRTHS

Total	Nil	Nil	Rate per 1,000 live & still-births= Nil	Nil	18.1

DEATHS

Total	51	48	Rate per 1,000 resident pop: = 13.7	12.1	11.9

Deaths in Infants

Under 1 Year	Nil	Nil	Infantile death rate per 1,000 live births = Nil	Nil	21.4
Under 4 Weeks	Nil	Nil			

	1962	1961	1960	1959
Deaths from Maternal Causes	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
" " Tuberculosis	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
" " Cancer of the lungs	4	3	1	1
" " Other Cancer	15	12	22	13
" " Coronary Disease(Angina)	13	19	9	13
" " Other Heart or Vascular diseases	34	37	31	25
" " Influenza	Nil	1	Nil	4
" " Pneumonia	6	6	2	4
" " Motor vehicle accidents	3	1	Nil	2
" " All other accidents	1	1	1	1
" " Suicide	2	3	Nil	1
" " Leukaemia & Aleukemia	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

B. Nature of the District

Sherborne is a trading centre of an agricultural area, as well as being a tourist and educational centre. Principal industries include light engineering, glove making, dairies and silk mills. The latter now produce glass fabrics and light engineering.

C. Health Services in the District which are not the responsibility of the District Council

The Hospital Service

The Yeatman Hospital (West Dorset Hospital Group of the Wessex Regional Hospital Board) provides the local hospital requirements, both in-patient and out-patient.

Laboratory Services

The Public Health Laboratory Service has again proved co-operative and efficient.

General Medical Practitioner, Opthalmic and Pharmaceutical Services

These are administered locally by the Dorset Executive Committee.

County Council Services

The personal preventive health services are the responsibility of the County Council.

They comprise, the care of mothers and young children, maternity, school health, home nursing, mental health, the ambulance service, the care and after care of the tuberculous, blind and handicapped, health education, the domestic help service and the welfare of the aged.

Voluntary Services

Acknowledgment must be made to the excellent voluntary work carried out in the district by the British Red Cross Society, the Guild of Social Service and the more recently established, meals on wheels service provided by the W.V.S.

Prevention of Disease

Prophylactic Inoculations Preventive inoculation against disease is the responsibility of the County Council through the School medical, child welfare and medical practitioner services.

An immunisation treatment session was held regularly in Sherborne on the third Friday in the month from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.

During the year the following treatments were carried out.

	1962	1961	1960
Poliomyelitis			
Two treatments (Salk)	5	217	253
Three treatments (Salk or	226	259	511
Four treatments Oral)	24	444	
Diphtheria			
Primary treatments	83	75	74
Booster treatments	59	43	130
Whooping Cough			
Primary treatments	78	71	73
Booster treatments	34	17	21
Tetanus			
Primary treatments	127	100	87
Booster treatments	45	37	27
Smallpox			
Primary vaccinations	160	60	72
Re-vaccinations	403	11	16

D. Environmental Health Services

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health (part time) - Noel F. Pearson, M.R.C.S.,L.R.C.P.,D.P.H.

He also acts as Medical Officer of Health to four other District Councils in the North Dorset area and as Assistant County Medical Officer to the Dorset County Council

The time available which he has to devote to his duties with your Council is slightly more than one half day per week.

Public Health Inspector - F.E. Raeburn, M.A.P.H.I.

At least one third of this Inspector's time is given to meat inspection.

Clerical Staff - Three clerks (part time)

WATER SUPPLY

Rainfall -	1962	1961	1960
	29.01 ins.	28.47 ins.	44.19 ins.

Supplies remained satisfactory and adequate throughout the year.

Eighty eight regular monthly samples from the Council's supplies were submitted for bacteriological examination during the year and twenty nine samples from private supplies which are in use for industrial purposes.

All the houses in the district have a piped water supply from the Council's mains supply and no houses are dependant on standpipe supplies.

Wessex Water Board

The Board takes over the Council's water undertaking as from October 1963.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Some teething troubles were experienced with the modernised sewerage works during the year both in respect to smell nuisance and effluent of borderline quality. At the end of the year these troubles appeared to have been overcome.

A scheme was considered to provide a new foul water sewer to serve the western part of Bradford Road to allow additional housing development in that area.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

House Refuse The Council's scheme provides for the collection of house refuse weekly and disposal by controlled tipping.

Salvage One hundred and five tons of paper, one ton of rags and six tons of metal were collected during the year.

Cesspool Emptying No provision is required to be made in the district.

RIVERS AND STREAMS POLLUTION

Complaints were received with regard to the River Yeo but investigation did not reveal any source of pollution which required action by the Council.

SHOPS ACTS

In addition to the Council's direct responsibilities under the Shops Act, 1950, the Council has also had delegated to it the County Council's functions under Section 38(3) (4) and (5) of the Act.

No. of inspections carried out	9
No. of defects found	2
No. of notices served	2
No. of notices complied with	2

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 (Nil figures not given)

	No. of Premises on Register	Inspections	Written Notices
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority	3	3	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	62	62	3
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	4	3	-
Total -	69	68	3

	No. of cases in which defects were -		
	Found	Remedied	Referred by Factory Inspector.
Sanitary Conveniences -			
Insufficient	1	1	-
Unsuitable or defective	6	6	1
Total	7	7	1

No. of outworkers (Wearing apparel) - 95.

SMOKE ABATEMENT

Thirty three observations and visits to plants were made during the year. Two verbal notices were given.

The situation concerning factories has improved due to new and larger installations provided at various factories over the last few years.

SWIMMING BATHS

There is one private swimming bath to which the public have access. Regular samples of the water from this and other private swimming baths in the district were taken during the year and all proved satisfactory.

CAMPING SITES

No licenses were issued during the year under the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960

In the absence of alternative sites, the existence of caravan dwellings, in decreasing numbers, has had to be accepted on the old sites which ceased to be licensed since the above mentioned Act came into operation.

Outline planning consent has been given to the use of land at Clatcombe for a permanent caravan site. It is hoped that work will commence on this site early in 1963. Such a site, provided with all necessary sanitary facilities and amenities will prove a most useful asset to the district.

VERMINOUS PREMISES

Disinfestation with DDT was carried out at one house prior to demolition.

Several treatments against clusters of flies (musca autumnalis) were carried out.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

The duties of the District Council under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949 are carried out in the district by the North Dorset Joint Rodent Committee whose activities cover the five districts in North Dorset and the Beaminster Rural District.

The total treatments undertaken in the district during the year numbered three hundred and three compared with four hundred and twenty three during the previous year. Three hundred and sixty seven inspections were carried out.

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951

There are no premises subject to registration under the above-mentioned Act within the district.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

No. of licensed premises	1
No. of inspections made	2

SANITATION OF SCHOOLS AND SCHOOL CANTEENS

Regular inspections were made in all school canteens. The standard of hygiene was satisfactory. It was necessary to ask for the redecoration of the Abbey School and Simons Road kitchens. Work was done at both canteens - the latter is to be thoroughly redecorated during the summer holidays of 1963.

The badly needed new sanitary accommodation at the Abbey School was provided during the year.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948 and 1951 - Section 47

No action was called for or taken during the year toward the compulsory removal of a person requiring care and attention under the Act.

NOISE ABATEMENT

No action was called for or taken during the year.

HOUSING

Total number of houses in the district	2,171
Inspection of dwelling houses during the year -	
No. of dwelling houses inspected during the year	54
No. of inspections made	65
No. of informal notices served	1
No. of informal notices complied with	1
No. of statutory notices served	Nil
No. of statutory notices complied with	Nil
No. of houses reported under Section 16 of the Housing Act, 1958	Nil
Action taken by the Local Authority in respect of such houses -	
Demolition Orders made	Nil
Undertakings accepted for -	
Closure	Nil
Reconditioning	Nil
Other Action	Nil
No. of houses included in Clearance Areas during the year	15

Housing (Continued)

Slum Clearance

Four Clearance areas, covering fifteen houses, were represented to you during the year.

These were, of course, houses considered to be unfit for human occupation by the very low standard of fitness laid down in the Housing Act, 1958.

In addition to the remaining houses of this category in your district, there are a considerable number which although not 'unfit' within the meaning of the Housing Act, are by all reasonable standards in the present state of society unfit for family use. A fixed bath and a running hot water supply, a readily accessible W.C. are no longer mere amenities, but, it is suggested, present day necessities.

In this connection, it is pleasing to record that the Council has accepted tenders for the improvement of its Vernalls Road Houses.

Overcrowding

No 'statutory' overcrowding came to notice during the year.

Houses Let in Lodgings

Two houses are known to be let in lodgings.

Improvement Grants

Applications for four 'Discretionary' and fifteen 'Standard' Improvement Grants were received during the year, compared with two and ten respectively during the preceding year.

New Houses

Six new houses were built by private enterprise during the year and eight by the Council, compared with thirty three and seven respectively during the previous year.

Twenty five families were housed by the Council during the year.

Waiting List

217 applicants were on the Council's housing waiting list at the end of the year compared with 187 a year previously.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES

1. Milk

Food and Drugs Act, 1955

No. of 'dealers' subject to registration by the District Council	8
No. of 'dairies' in the district subject to registration	2
No. of 'distributors' subject to registration	Nil

Samples

Forty four samples of milk in the District were taken during the year by your Public Health Inspector and submitted for examination. One sample only failed to pass the test.

In addition one hundred and fifty samples were taken by Officers of the County Council.

Milk & Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959 - Regulation 20

No action was called for or taken during the year.

2. Other Food Premises

The number of food premises in the area, by type of business:-

Hotels, restaurants, cafes and boarding houses	25
Canteens - School and Workplace	8
Confectioners	8
Meat and Fish	11
Grocers	9
Mixed Stores	10
Boarding Schools and other residential institutions	7
Food Factories	2
Stalls	4
Other	7

No. of food premises subject to registration under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955 in respect of -

Ice Cream	35
Sausages & Prepared Meats	2
Fish and Chips	2

No. of samples of ice cream submitted for Methylene Blue Test 90

87 of the above-mentioned 'food premises' were inspected during the year, 174 inspections being carried out.

9 notices were served during the year in relation to contravention of the Food (Hygiene) Regulations.

Food Inspection

Butchers' and Other Shops

Quantities of foodstuffs condemned -

Meat	-	178 lbs.
Other	-	124 lbs.

Slaughterhouses

There are two licensed slaughterhouses in the district. For the third year in succession no beast was found to be infected with tuberculosis.

Thanks are again due to the Sherborne R.D.C - to its Meat Inspector (Mr. Fannon) for relieving your own Meat Inspector in his absence and on alternative Sundays.

Carcases and Offal Inspected and Condemned

	Cattle Including Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	790	7,828	1,595	1,234
Number Inspected	790	7,828	1,595	1,234
All diseases except Tuberculosis & Cysticerci:				
Whole carcases condemned	2	20	6	50
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	73	42	44	370
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	9.38	0.79	3.14	34.03
Tuberculosis only:				
Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	21
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	-	-	-	1.70
Cysticercosis:				
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	6	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	6	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-

SUMMARY OF SANITARY INSPECTIONS CARRIED OUT

Total No. of inspections(under all headings)	1,813
Total No. informal notices served	15
Total No. of informal notices complied with	14
Total No. of statutory notices served	2
Total No. of statutory notices complied with	2
Total No. of prosecutions	Nil

E. RADIATION HAZARDS

Any information available with regard to the results of monitoring background radiation from nuclear fall out by Central Departments suggests that no material deterioration in the position has taken place during the year.

F. NOTIFIABLE DISEASE

Other than tuberculosis -

Disease	Total Cases Notified
Measles	9
Scarlet Fever	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	3
Whooping Cough	1
Pneumonia	3
Enteric Fever	1

Tuberculosis -

New Cases Notified	
Respiratory	Non-Respiratory
4	-

Food Poisoning -

There were no cases of food poisoning notified during the year.

NOEL F. PEARSON

Medical Officer of Health.